Gaskell does not suggest that her para-matter makes up all the substance of living things. She suggests only that these non-material systems of electrons, which she calls Z-systems, are in some fashion linked with the atoms and molecules of matter and, while so linked, profoundly modify their modes of change. She speaks of such combinations of atoms and Z-systems as Y-systems:

* The organism is a dual system, an atomic-intja-atomic system. The atomic system is material and is the body of the organism; the intra-atomic system is immaterial and is the life of the organism. The two systems are built of the same ultimate constituents but on different patterns. . . . Living matter invariably is a dual system the constitution of which is partly material and partly immaterial; the presence of the immaterial system constituting the living state'. While death is the rupture between and the separation of the two systems which, by their co-operation, constitute the living organism.

I confess that this speculation appeals to me in sug-gesting a possibility of explanation of certain funda-mental peculiarities of living things. It may, for example, yield an explanation of the two peculiarities of all living things on which I have insisted as most fundamental and universally displayed—namely, the power of growth and self-duplication by selective assimilation and the para-doxical combination of great stability with lability and delicate responsiveness to many influences. The stability of organism, it has been suggested, is nothing"

more than one manifestation of the power of restitution.

Yet that seems hardly an adequate view. There is rather, I think, good reason to suppose that the genes of a species remain unchanged in constitution so long as the species endures. And experiments of a very direct